(*b*) Will they be pleased to state what principle is adopted in confirming them in their posts?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are no volunteer Assistant Surgeons or Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Department at present.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

Administrative Board, Medical Services.

417. **MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN** (*Vaikam*): With reference to the Administrative Board, Medical Services, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who is the senior of the two official members;

(*b*) whether any substitute is appointed in the place of Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose during the period of her leave;

(*c*) if not, why; and

(*d*) whether transfers and special duty arrangements are effected by the Inspecting Medical Officer alone or in consultation with the other members?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The two officers belong to two different cadres in their substantive posts. Dr. Raman Tampi's permanent appointment is that of Medical Officer Nayar Brigade, and Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose is a Surgeon of the Medical Department. As in the Administrative Board, Medical Services, each officer is independent of the other, the question of their relative rank did not arise and was not considered.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) It was not considered necessary.

(*d*) Transfers and special duty arrangements are effected by the Board as well as by the Inspecting Medical Officer in accordance with the powers vested in them.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With reference to part (*c*) of the question, may I know whether it was because there was not sufficient work that a substitute was not appointed for a lady member on the Board?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The vacancy was only for a short time and the Government thought that the work could be managed without a substitute.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With regard to part (*d*) the question is whether the Inspecting Medical Officer could transfer Medical Officers without consulting the other members of the Board. That part is not answered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is answered.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): No. The answer is vague and says that both the Inspecting Medical Officer and the members of the Board could transfer.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, not the members of the Board but the Board as a whole.

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MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): May I know whether he could transfer Medical Officers on his own accord?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He cannot transfer persons the power of transferring whom is vested with the Board.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Are there a certain number of people the power of whose transfer is not vested with the Board?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, those who draw less than Rs. 30.

Auction of a Tank-bed in the Neendakara Pakuti.

418. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the circumstances that led to the sale of 45 acres of tank-bed, for Rs. 45,000 in the Neendakara pakuti of the Agastisvaram taluk in the beginning of this year, 1104; and

(*b*) the reasons for not confirming the auction in the name of the bidder?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was no sale of 45 acres of tank-bed, as stated by the member, in the Neendakara pakuti. An extent of 27 acres and 36½ cents of tank *poramboke* in the Neendakara A Division pakuti was put up to auction by the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, in accordance with the orders of the Government, towards the close of 1103.

(*b*) The auction sale was set aside by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner owing to certain material irregularities of procedure that characterised the sale. The matter is now before the Government.

Revenue from Timber removed from certain Forests.

419. MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of timber removed annually from the forests between Azhakiapandipuram and Cape Comorin during the last 12 years (1092 to 1103) and the revenue realised therefrom?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are no forests or reserved areas between Azhakiapandipuram and Cape Comorin.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether any portion of the Kalkulam Range is between Azhakiapandipuram and Cape Comorin?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is based on the Conservator's report. According to that there are no such forests within the area.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want to know whether any portion of this Range is between Azhakipandipuram and Cape Comorin.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice of that question. The Conservator will have to be asked about it.

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